

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

“Sproing Boing”

PREMISE– 19/3/2019

By Daniel Whiteson and Jorge Cham

Elinor’s Question: How can we help Olive jump higher?

Logline: Elinor and her friends learn how nature uses springs and give Olive an apple-picking boost in Farmer Bear’s Farm.

Curriculum Goals:

- **LS2a** Identify body parts of animals and their function; and b: Identify the basic parts of plants and their function [the kids identify springs in plants and animal external parts]
- **ND3.** (RTL Crosscutting concept ‘Structure and Function’): Understand that structures and materials in the natural world can be used or can inspire the engineering of structures with similar function in the designed world. [The kids use nature-inspired springs to give Olive a boost]
- **SEP: At outline**

It’s Saturday and Elinor, her friends, and her mom are visiting Farmer Bear’s apple farm. Farmer Bear wants to show Elinor’s mom (Ranger Rabbit) her new crop of fruits and vegetables. While waiting, Elinor and her friends can’t resist poking around the farm. Near where Farmer Bear was working on her tractor, the kids find a bucket with doodads and pick out a couple of springs. Elinor is fascinated by the spring and its ability to squish and release energy. She and her friends explore the farm and look for other springy things.

They can’t find any more mechanical springs, but they do find that springiness shows up in a few places in Nature: in how trees and plants bend and flex; and in insects. The kids get curious about a grasshopper and how high it jumps, and learn from their Nature book that the bug uses its legs as a spring. Elinor’s mom tracks them down and they start picking apples from the trees. Elinor, a bunny, has no problem jumping or climbing up to get the apples. And her friend Ari, a bat, has no problem flying up to get the fruit. Unfortunately, her friend Olive can’t get very many apples because she can’t jump as high or climb the trees. At first, Elinor feels great that she’s picking more fruit than her friend. But when she sees how sad her friend is, Elinor realizes that she needs to help her.

Luckily, Elinor remembers what she learned earlier about springs. She fashions a pair of bouncy shoes using the springs they had found and ties them together using pieces of stretchy vine from the plants nearby. With the springy shoes, Olive is able to jump higher and pick fruit with her friends.

Sara Sweetman Notes:

Sproing Boing- I'm not sure about the take away message yet for this premise. Are you making a connection between how animals move, hop, verses walk, verses slither, verses climb and their ability to get apples. In the real-world

Commented [KM1]: We had the kids using springs in the Episode “Tomato Drop” – are we ok with returning to the idea that they’re fascinated and curious by it? Perhaps if we play it that its not the first time they’ve seen a spring and understand how it works but they’re curious if nature has ‘springs’ as well

Commented [KM2]: Just want to note – Picking apples – is it ok that they jump, grab and pull? Is there a process that’s recommended for the safety of the tree?

Commented [KM3]: Perhaps we shouldn’t use plants (vines - pulling them off) to tie the springs to her feet. Suggest using twine from the bucket of doodads

elephants would use their trunks and would be more successful at getting apples than rabbits. I like that Ari and Elinor have different mechanisms for getting the apples. Do grasshopper legs work like springs? Would spring shoes really be a viable solution for an elephant to get apples from a tree? I use to love the Touch Me Not seeds that popped when you touched them...something so exciting and satisfying. Although I think this might be more about being able to hop verses not hop. Its interesting that many animals (across domains) can hop Rabbit-mammal Frog- amphibian Grasshopper- insect.